

# Targeted Support for Local Schools

## Mission

To provide students, parents, and school corporations with specific assistance to ensure that children and schools with particular educational needs and circumstances have the opportunity for success in education.

## Summary of Activities

Indiana provides targeted support to local schools through a number of programs administered by the **Department of Education** (DOE) that focus resources on students with specific additional educational needs. For example, over 52,000 students in early grades who are at-risk of not learning to read and write have received specific assistance in the area of reading through an early intervention program, while 347 teachers have been trained in these teaching skills during the 1999-2001 biennium. Over 860,000 new library books have been added to local school libraries, increasing circulation of books per student by 15 percent. Gifted and talented funds provide enrichment programs for 90,434 students.



The state tuition support appropriation provides significant funding for programs that target children in socio-economic circumstances that are statistically correlated to a higher risk of academic failure. A formula is used that provides additional funds based on the percentage of at-risk students. Other targeted programs provide funding for school safety training and safe schools, honors students, summer school programs, Japanese / Chinese language instruction, school performance awards, and support of the Education Employment Relations Board and its contribution to fair labor practices in schools for certified personnel.

The Indiana Technology Fund provides funds for computer technology in all 294 school corporations, as well as training for over 6,000 educators and technology coordinators. Other technology funds bring computers into early-grade classrooms. School corporations receive funding both to reduce the cost of Internet access and to install internal wiring and connectivity. Other targeted programs help prepare students for college. Last year over 65,000 students participated in the Core 40 program, which provides a standard college-preparatory curricula and diploma. Funding is also provided to pay for the cost of the pre-SAT exam, and for Advanced Placement tests that allow students to take college-level courses while in high school, and receive college credit.

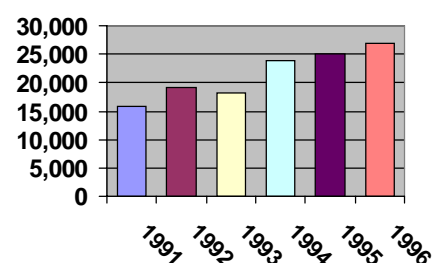
Local schools receive funding to provide additional, specific instruction to students who have not passed the ISTEP exam. Particular emphasis is given to high school students who have not passed the Graduation Qualifying Exam.

## External Factors

The specific educational needs that drive Indiana's targeted education programs are constantly changing. For example, Indiana has recently experienced an increase in the number of residents originating from foreign countries. These students bring a new and challenging set of needs. Since 1990, the number of English language minority students in Indiana has almost doubled, from 15,769 students to 29,990 students in 2000. The number of Limited English Proficient (LEP) students has tripled during that same time period. The number of different native languages spoken in Indiana schools has increased from 170 in 1990 to 210 in 2000. Higher enrollment of LEP students is anticipated in future years.

Local schools also serve students who face increasing challenges due to poverty, medical conditions, and economic status, requiring a variety of different support services. As these conditions change, the need for targeted support changes as well.

Language Minority Students



## Evaluation and Accomplishments

In 1997, when the Class of 2000 first took the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE), 54 percent passed both parts of the test. After the expenditure of remediation dollars targeted toward this class, at the end of the school year 1999-00, 86 percent of members of the Class of 2000 had passed the GQE .

In the area of early intervention, over 1,500 teachers have been trained to be specialists in reading instruction for students in first grade. Over 21,000 pre-school through Grade 2 students will be served during the 1999-2001 biennium through 133 grants made to schools offering reading and literacy programs. Grant requests by school districts exceeded by three times the available grant dollars.

## Special Initiatives

Governor O'Bannon has proposed an Education Improvement Plan that provides new funds for local schools. Based on the knowledge that investments in the crucial early learning years will pay dividends throughout a child's educational life, the School Readiness-Early Education Grant program will provide \$50 million over the FY 02/03 biennium. Local schools will have significant flexibility to utilize these funds in ways that best fit the educational needs of their students. Options include full-day kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, Head Start, and expanding kindergarten for younger children by changing minimum entrance age requirements.

The Education Improvement Plan also includes reading and math readiness programs that will help children master fundamental learning skills. Early Reading grants will be available to provide reading diagnostic services for 1st and 2nd graders, after-school enrichment, and one-on-one tutoring, focusing on students who are not reading at the appropriate level by grade 3. This grant is proposed at \$13 million in FY 02 and \$14 million in FY 03. Similarly, a \$4 million Math Readiness grant is proposed to provide intensive instruction to students in grades 6 - 8 who are not meeting math standards.

A special \$1 million reward program is proposed to benefit high-performing schools, providing incentives to ensure that all 3rd graders are reading at grade level and all 8th graders have the mathematics fundamentals needed to move on to algebra, trigonometry, and calculus. A \$2 million Indiana Book Club will be created to provide take-home reading books to lower-income children.

